

## BACKGROUND

### Institute of Museum and Library Services' Efforts to Help Museum and Libraries in Gulf Recover

#### **Laura Bush Announced \$1.5 Million from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to Help Libraries and Museums in Major Disaster Areas Recover, June 1, 2006**

- The Institute will award the \$1.5 million in FY07 through three grant categories, the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (December 16 application deadline), Museums for America (November 15 deadline), and Conservation Project Support (October 1 deadline).
- The grants will support programs that introduce high school or college students to potential careers in libraries and museums by employing them to assist with disaster recovery or service operations. (Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for library applicants, Museum for America program for museum applicants.)
- The grants will also provide professional internships in conservation practice at libraries and museums that have suffered disaster-related damage. (Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for library applicants, Conservation Projects Support program for museum applicants.)

#### **Institute of Museum and Library Services is Supporting dPlan, an Online Disaster Planning Tool, Nationwide**

- IMLS is extending its support for **dPlan**, a free online disaster planning tool, by expanding it so that it can be used for comprehensive disaster planning by cultural heritage institutions nationwide. It was created by the Northeast Document Conservation Center and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funding from IMLS and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.
- dPlan is a free, easy to use, step-by-step, Web-based program for writing institutional disaster plans. **dPlan** automatically inserts vital, customized information such as checklists of disaster procedures, salvage priorities, preventive maintenance schedules and current contact information for emergency personnel, insurance agents, and IT assistance into the institution's final plan. **dPlan** even includes a periodic automated alert to remind planners to review and update their plans.
- The tool also includes a section of information about disaster recovery resources that planners should know about in advance, not after disaster has struck. Currently, the resource section of **dPlan** contains information only for Massachusetts. Now IMLS support will enable **dPlan** to become a useful national resource by adding state-by-state resource lists for the other 49 states. This additional work will be completed in mid-2007. For more information, log onto: [www.dplan.org](http://www.dplan.org)

## **Institute of Museum and Library Services Awarded \$671,922 in Grants to Museums in Gulf Coast Region, through Expedited Review Process, March 23, 2006**

- The agency extended the grant period for ALL of its grant recipients, museums and libraries, in the declared disaster areas and allowed them to change the scope of their grant activities to meet the unexpected needs caused by the hurricanes.
- The agency also expedited the grant review process for the two remaining open grant competitions (two museum grant programs--Conservation Project Support and Museum for America) and announced it would release awards early to successful applicants throughout the country whose project proposals met the needs caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- As a result of the agency's expedited grant process, awards were released early to seven museums in the Gulf Coast to assist in recovery efforts. Museums in Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi received a total of \$671,922 to assess and conserve collections and historic sites, improve emergency preparedness, and provide critical community outreach. The museums matched these federal funds with an additional **\$1,496,136**, demonstrating their determination to recover.

(Attached to this backgrounder is a list of the grant recipients with descriptions of their projects.)

## **Starting September 21, 2005, the Institute of Museum and Library Services Began Posting First Reports on Museum and Library Related Damage and Resources for Recovery at <http://www.ims.gov/news/2005/katrina.shtm>**

## **In the Days before Hurricane Katrina Made Landfall, the Institute of Museum and Library Services began Working with the Heritage Emergency Task Force**

- IMLS has been an active member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a standing task force co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and FEMA, since its inception in 1995. The task force, a partnership of 39 federal agencies and national service organizations, was formed to help libraries and archives, museums, historical societies, and historic sites better protect their collections and buildings from natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, has convened regular conference calls for representatives of federal, state, and local organizations, agencies, and institutions involved in relief efforts. Reports of these calls contain extensive information on damage to cultural heritage and on relief efforts and helped inform the agency's next steps. Summaries of the conference calls are posted at: <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/KatrinaTF.HTM>.

# **Recipients of the March 23, 2006 Museum Grant Announcement**

## **IN FLORIDA**

- At the Gifford Arboretum at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida 40 percent of the arboretum's specimens were destroyed. The arboretum was awarded two grants from IMLS. They will use the grants to conduct a detailed condition survey and to redesign and reestablish beds, walkways, and exhibits. The arboretum will also conduct training to improve hurricane preparedness and response. Grants: \$63,922; Match: \$67,456.

## **IN LOUISIANA**

- The Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans will launch the New Orleans Center for Art and Technology (NOCAT) to train underemployed adults in skills that will help them contribute to the economic redevelopment of the city. NOCAT will also provide high school students with arts training that will motivate them to finish school and go to college. The Contemporary Arts Center will also welcome displaced arts organizations and serve on advisory boards that formulate policies on the future of the arts and culture in New Orleans. Grant: \$64,594; Match: \$743,018.
- Longue Vue House and Gardens in New Orleans will conduct an environmental survey of the main house and adjacent buildings. The basements of these structures were flooded with fifteen feet of water following Hurricane Katrina. The flood damaged the systems that monitor and control the environmental conditions in most of Longue Vue's significant rooms and collections areas. The survey will include development of strategies for improving interior environmental conditions and staff training. Grant: \$42,286; Match: \$54,791
- The Louisiana Children's Museum, in an effort to address the urgent need to ensure the well-being of our children and families, will begin a program entitled "Re-Connecting, Re-Engaging, Re-Building." The museum has long served as a center for community engagement and had a director of community engagement on the staff for a one-year period in 2005. The focus of her work was to use the museum's strengths, the directives of its strategic plan, and input from the community to create a new initiative on the well-being of families. The research for the initiative was completed in July 2005. With Katrina's impact on New Orleans, the initiative is not only timely but desperately needed. The Children's Museum will celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of Louisiana's arts, music, and literature through play and play therapy; and will employ a child psychologist/play therapist to address critical needs of families in the community. Grant: \$148,200; Match: \$149,000
- In spite of the forced evacuation of the Louisiana State Museum Foundation's Education Center (EdLab) from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, EdLab will use federal IMLS dollars to enhance educational services statewide. EdLab will produce a blueprint for exhibits and collections that preserve the culture and history of Louisiana and create a cadre of trained K-12 museum educators. Grant: \$150,000; Match: \$275,951
- New Orleans Museum of Art's primary storage facility was contaminated by ground water following Hurricane Katrina, exposing it to excessive humidity and mold. The museum will conduct a detailed condition survey of the 30,000 objects that were housed in the facility and relocate them in an improved environment within the museum. Grant: \$150,000; Match: \$160,000.

## **IN MISSISSIPPI**

- In Biloxi, Mississippi, Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, suffered heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina. The Soldiers Museum on the grounds was completely destroyed. Beauvoir will use the grant to retain conservators already salvaging and identifying artifacts. And, as part of their rebuilding effort, Beauvoir will develop schematics for a new museum and library. Grant: \$45,920; Match: \$45,920.